Modernisation of Jaipur Airport

172. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Airports in the country which are being upgraded to international standards with all modern facilities during 1998-99;

(b) whether Government have decided to upgrade Jaipur Airport to the above standard; and

(c) if so, the likely cost of modernisation of Jaipur Airport keeping in view the present day facilities to be made available there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) In the 9th Five Year Plan period. Airports Authority of India has plans to upgrade Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Hyderabad and Bangalore airports to international standards. However, during 1998-99 AAI has drawn up detailed plans for developing Amritsar Airport to international standards.

(b) and (c) Facilities for operation of limited international chartered flights are already available at Jaipur Airport.

Domestic Air Traffic Passenger Growth

173. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the targets set for air traffic passenger growth in the domestic aviation industry for the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the targets set up achieved during the Eighth Plan period;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the targets of air traffic passenger growth;

(d) the target set for 1998-99; and

(e) how Government propose to improve the passenger growth?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No specific targets are set in this regard. Two studies are available. A Committee was set up in September, 1993 under the Planning Commission to estimate domestic air traffic growth till 2000 AD. This Committee in its report of March 1994, had indicated 3 market scenarios: conservative growth rate at 10.0%, most likely growth at 12.5% and optimistic growth at 14.0%. It had projected overall domestic passenger market to reach a volume of 22.8 million passenger per annum by 2000 AD at most likely growth of 12.5% and 19.5 million passenger at conservative growth rate of 10.0%. In April 1996, "Foundation for Aviation and Sustainable Tourism" in its forecast for domestic traffic upto the year 2010-11 has, inter-alia, projected an increase of 10.5% in the domestic traffic during 1997-98 to 1999-2000 and 8.5% during 2000-01 to 2001-02.

(b) No specific target for domestic passenger traffic growth for 8th Plan was set. The actual traffic achieved during the 8th Plan Period is as follows:—

Year	Passenger carried (in lakhs)	Growth rate (in %)
1992-93	79.9	– 4.4
1993-94	97.3	+ 21.8
1994-95	108.8	+ 11.8
1995-96	120.3	+ 10.6
1996-97	118.7	– 1.3

(c) A combination of various factors affects growth in traffic; the general global economic slow down particularly in South East Asia; availability of competitive alternative modes of transport; insufficient availability of small sized aircraft for sub-regional operations are a few of the factors.

(d) and (e) No specific target for passenger traffic growth for 1998-99 has been set.

Upgradation of Guwahati Airport

174. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: